

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-07 SS-15 NRC-05 /131 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1699

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL
WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: FOR FIRST TIME, SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED TODAY TO
INCLUDE NEUTRON BOMB WITHIN PROHIBITION OF RADIOLOGICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION. US SIDE REJECTED SOVIET PROPOSAL. END
SUMMARY.
2. FOURTH MEETING OF THIRD ROUND OF US-USSR ARMS CONTROL
WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND NEW MASS
DESTRUCTION WEAPONS(MDW) WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 6 AT SOVIET
MISSION. AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) SAID
HE WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE SOVIET PRESENTATION ON RW JOINT
INITIATIVE AND TURNED TO "ARTICLE 2" (US ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT
2) WHICH DEALS WITH THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.
HE REITERATED UNDERSTANDING AT PREVIOUS ROUND THAT THE
RW CONVENTION SHOULD NOT APPLY TO "EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS".
HE THEN SAID THAT THERE ARE NUCLEAR DEVICES THAT ONE MAY CONSIDER
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AS RW AND CITED AS AN EXAMPLE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVISE IN
WHICH THE MAIN QUANTITY OF ENERGY IS EMITTED IN THE FORM OF
POWERFUL NEUTRON RADIATION. HE SAID THAT IS PRECISELY THIS
TYPE OF DEVICE THAT IS MEANT WHEN ONE REFERS TO THE NEUTRON
BOMB OR ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON. HE SAID THE NATURE OF THE
RADIOLOGICAL EFFECT AND HARMFUL GENETIC EFFECT ON HUMANS WOULD
BE THE SAME WHETHER PRODUCED BY RW OR THE NEUTRON BOMB. HE

SAID THAT RW CONVENTION PROVIDES CHANCE TO ERECT AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO THE NEUTRON BOMB AND PROPOSED THAT "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS" (NEUTRON BOMB) BE INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF RW. LIKHATCHEV HANDED OVER REVISED SOVIET DRAFT RW CONVENTION TEXT WHICH INCORPORATED SOVIET PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE NEUTRON BOMB IN PROHIBITION.

3. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF U.S. DEL) RESPONDED THAT THE SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB IS CLEARLY A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND PRESENTED RATIONALE WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS RW. HE NOTED THAT THE US SIDE HAS BEEN PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS THAT RW CONVENTION WOULD NOT INCLUDE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AND STATED THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL REGARDING NEUTRON BOMB IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US SIDE. HE SAID WITH THIS UNDERSTOOD THE US SIDE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON RW ON OCTOBER 11 AND INTENDED TO TURN TO ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT NUMBER SIX (VERIFICATION AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE) AT THAT TIME.

4. LIKHATCHEV ASKED US TO STUDY THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD, TODAY BY THE SOVIET SIDE. FISHER RESPONDED THAT HIS STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO NEUTRON BOMB REMAINS UNCHANGED. LIKHATCHEV ASKED IF THIS MEANT US WOULD NOT STUDY SOVIET PROPOSAL. FISHER REPLIED THAT US SIDE WILL STUDY SOVIET PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT US POSITIVE REACTION TO RW HAD BEEN BASED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE EXCLUDED, AND PROSPECTS FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE US POSITION ARE DIM.
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5. DETAILED REPORT OF MEETING WILL FOLLOW.

6. COMMENT: US DEL HAD NO INDICATION IN ADVANCE THAT SOVIETS INTENDED TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION ON THE DEFINITION OF RW TO INCLUDE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS. IT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER SOVPETS WILL HOLD TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES IN CONTEXT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB. IN ANY EVENT, US DEL INTENDS TO COUPLE OCTOBER 11 PRESENTATION ON ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT NUMBER 6 (VERIFICATION) WITH DEFINITIVE REJECTION OF SOVIET PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE NEUTRON BOMB IN RW PROHIBITION.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE
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